1	2	3	4
16.	Mapusa	385	Mapusa, Canca, Verla, Karaswada
17.	Margao	697	Margao, Cana
18.	Merces	153	Merces, Curca, Ella, Jua, Malar
19.	Miramar	726	Panjim Corporation
20.	Panjim	768	Panjim Corporation
21.	Patto	86	Panjim Corporation
22.	Ponda	414	Ponda, Nirancal
23.	Porvorim	764	Porvorim, Marra, Nagor, Salvodor do Munda, Pilerne, Sangolda
24.	Ribander	118	Ribandar, Bainguinim
25.	Sada	59	Sada
26.	Saligao	114	Saligao, Nagoa, Sangolda, Parra
27.	Sancoale	53	Sancoale, Cortalim, Dabolim
28.	Vasco	305	Vasco
29.	Verna	116	Verna, Nagoa, Seraulim, Sirlim
	TOTAL:	7071	

BSNL Network subscribers

1235. DR. V. MAITREYAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the low volume subscribers for the BSNL GSM Network in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that BSNL has been pushed to number four in terms of overall subscribers, way behind the private players;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps which are being taken to improve the position in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has generally been registering growth for mobile subscribers comparable to that of private operators in the past. However, there has been decline in growth lately. This has been due to capacity constraints and impediments in equipment procurement efforts for almost six months, as one of the bidders had approached the Hon'ble High Court against the decision of BSNL rejecting his bid. Due to capacity constraints, BSNL's growth has been comparatively lesser. The company presently occupies third position among GSM operators.

(d) BSNL has already placed an Advance Purchase Order (APO) on the successful bidder. The bidder has accepted the offer by submitting Purchase Bank Guarantee (PBG) with some conditions, which are under evaluation. Equipment is expected to be progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order.

New subscribers for mobile services

1236. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during four months (March-June 2007), the telecom operators in the country added 14.6 million new subscribers for mobile services;

(b) whether the public sector BSNL added just one million to its mobile subscriber base across 21 circles during this period and pushed down to fourth place;

(c) whether consumers feel that BSNL's decline is bad for them as in the past, both BSNL and MTNL had played crucial roles in beating down call tariffs especially roaming charges; and

(d) the steps which are being planned to regain the share of subscriber base both for BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) During the four month period from March to June, 2007, telecom operators in the country added 22.51 million subscribers for wireless services.

(b) BSNL has contributed to overall mobile growth by adding 2.98 million connections during this period.

(c) and (d) Due to mobile equipment capacity constraints, BSNL growth has been comparatively lesser. BSNL has already placed an Advance Purchase Order (APO) on the successful bidder. The bidder has accepted the offer by submitting Purchase Bank Guarantee (PBG) with some conditions, which are under evaluation. Equipment is expected to be progressively available in about six months time from the date of acceptance of Purchase Order. MTNL has already taken steps for expansion of mobile network by 750 K lines each in Delhi and Mumbai and the equipment is being installed. The two PSUs are making all efforts to improve their market share.

Poor quality of services

1237. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has recently expressed its displeasure regarding poor quality of service provided by private service providers both in the fields of land line and mobile telephony;

(b) if so, the specific areas where improvements are needed; and